

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated November 21, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-21 are pending. Claims 1-21 have been rejected. Claims 1, 13 and 21 are independent claims from which claims 2-12 and 14-20 respectively depend. While Applicants do not agree with the grounds for rejection, in the interest of furthering prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 13 and 21 to more particularly point out the invention, which renders the stated grounds for rejection moot. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, define over the prior art. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments can be found at in the application as originally filed in paragraphs 8, 31- 40, and elsewhere.

Claims 1-22 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Zou et al., (“Web-Based Specification and Integration of Legacy Services”). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-22, as amended are patentable because Zou does not disclose or suggest all the features of Applicants’ amended claims.

Zou describes an integration middleware solution that gloms multiple back-end systems together and enables web applications to connect to it. The solution focuses on the use of the Web as an open infrastructure where services and tasks can be defined and enacted so that software components that were developed independently can be integrated to perform complex business tasks. The solution does not disclose or suggest at least providing a single unified user interface to all adaptors for management and setup of the adaptor, thereby eliminating a need for a user to learn to use multiple user interfaces for adaptors, as recited in amended claim 1. The Examiner states that Zou teaches a Web interface of a service search engine that allows a user to search for software services (like an adaptor, for example), not an interface for management and setup of the adaptor, as recited by Applicants’ amended claim. As Zou does not disclose or suggest all the features of Applicants’ amended claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable and request the withdrawal of the 102 rejections of these claims. As amended independent claims 13 and 21 include analogous features, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims and

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-2752/302033.01
Application No.: 10/721,002
Office Action Dated: November 21, 2006

**PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116**

the claims that depend from them are also allowable and request the withdrawal of the 102 rejections of these claims as well.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present Application is in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections of the claims and an early allowance is earnestly solicited.

Date: January 19, 2007

/Susan C. Murphy/
Susan C. Murphy
Registration No. 46,221

Woodcock Washburn LLP
Cira Centre
2929 Arch Street, 12th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2891
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439